



Press Release

For Immediate Release

Increase of Non-Immigrant Visa Application Fees Effective June 4, 2010

The U.S. Department of State has announced a world-wide increase in the nonimmigrant visa application processing fee, also called the Machine-Readable Visa (MRV) fee, and Border Crossing Card (BCC) fee, effective June 4, 2010. The new rule also establishes a tiered structure with separate fees for different visa categories. Under the new fee structure, the charge for visa application fees will vary according to the type of visa requested. In Mexico, this change will apply to Border Crossing Cards (commonly known as "Laser Visas") as well as to non-immigrant visas. Mexican minors will continue to pay a reduced fee; however this fee will increase from the current fee of US \$13.00 to the new fee of US \$14.00.

The Department of State is increasing the fee to ensure sufficient resources to cover the increasing cost of processing nonimmigrant visas (NIVs). The new, tiered fee structure was created to cover the higher unit costs for processing certain categories of nonimmigrant visas that are more complicated and require more in-depth consideration than most other categories of nonimmigrant visas. U.S. law requires the Department of State to attempt to recover the cost of processing non-immigrant visas through the collection of the application fees.

Under the new structure, applicants for B1/B2 tourist and business visitor visas and all student and exchange-visitor visas, would pay a fee of US \$140, an increase of US\$ 9.00.

Applicants for petition-based visas will pay an application fee of US \$150. These categories include:

- H visa for temporary workers and trainees
- L visa for intra-company transferees
- O visa for aliens with extraordinary ability
- P visa for athletes, artists and entertainers
- Q visa for international cultural exchange visitors
- R visa for religious occupations

While the US \$150 application fee for petition based categories does represent an increase, the Department eliminated the US \$100 issuance fee for citizens of Mexico in February, 2010, significantly offsetting the US \$20 increase in the application fee for petition-based applicants.

Oficina de Prensa

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<http://mexico.usembassy.gov>

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The application fee for K visas for fiancé(e)s of U.S. citizens will be \$350. The fee for E visas for treaty-traders and treaty-investors will be \$390.

Procedures for payment of visa fees in Mexico will not change. When a visa appointment is made through the Consular Call Center or website <http://mexico.usembassy.gov/eng> , the appointment confirmation will indicate the fee which is necessary for the category of visa being sought. All applicants for non-immigrant visas to visit the United States, regardless of nationality, should pay the peso equivalent of the visa application fee at any Banamex branch.

For more information on the fee increases and to review the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs), please visit the Department of State website via the following link: http://www.travel.state.gov/news/press/press_4603.html .

Below please find a chart that indicates the new fees in U.S. dollars and in the current Mexican peso equivalent (at the government-approved exchange rate of US\$1.00 = 13.5 MXP). The changes will create new fee categories, as well.

New Non-Immigrant Visa Application Fees:

Visa Category	Current Fee	New Fee (effective June 4, 2010) (US Dollars)	New Fee (MXP)
Tourist and other non-petition-based visas	\$131	US\$140	1,890 pesos
Tourist visa for Mexican minors (under age 15)	\$13	US\$14	189 pesos
Petition-based visas (H, L, O, P, Q and R visas)	\$131	US\$150	2,025 pesos
Fiancée K visas	\$131	US\$350	4,725 pesos
Treaty Trader / Investor (E visa)	\$131	US\$390	5,265 pesos

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